

Focus Area 16: Maternal, Infant, and Child Health

Objective 16-9a targets the reduction in primary Cesarean deliveries among low-risk females giving birth for the first time (full-term, singleton, vertex presentation) to a rate of 15.0 per 100 low-risk, first-time births (15.0 percent).

A total of 39,100 primary Cesarean deliveries among low-risk females giving birth for the first time were reported in 2000, at a rate of 22.6 percent based on data extracted from the Birth Statistical Master Files (Figure 16-9a, Table 16-9a). A total of 40,970 primary Cesarean deliveries among low-risk females giving birth for the first time were reported at a rate of 23.9 percent in 2001, 43,332 in 2002 at a rate of 25.2 percent, and 45,974 in 2003 at a rate of 26.1 percent. California's primary Cesarean delivery rates among low-risk females giving birth for the first time are significantly higher than the HP2010 objective, and are increasing away from the target.

Data by race-ethnicity show that the highest primary Cesarean delivery rates among low-risk females giving birth for the first time were found for African Americans/ Blacks (24.3 percent in 2000, 26.5 percent in 2001, 27.7 percent in 2002, and 28.5 percent in 2003), followed by Asians (23.3 percent in 2000, 24.8 in 2001, 26.3 in 2002, and 27.2 in 2003), Whites (23.7 percent in 2000, 24.8 in 2001, 26.3 in 2002, and 27.1 in 2003), and American Indians/Alaska Natives (21.0 percent in 2000, 25.1 in 2001, 25.2 in 2002, and 26.4 in 2003). This HP2010 objective is not being achieved for females of any racial or ethnic group, and rates are increasing away from the target.

Examined by age, primary Cesarean delivery rates among low-risk females giving birth for the first time were highest for those aged 35 years and over (38.0 percent in 2000, 39.7 percent in 2001, 41.7 percent in 2002, and 41.9 percent in 2003). The HP2010 objective of 15.0 percent was only being achieved for the under 15 age group, but in 2003 their rate increased to 16.5 percent. This HP2010 objective is not being achieved for females in any age group as of 2003.

For more information on Cesarean births and maternal risk in California, visit the Maternal and Child Health Branch Web site at:

<http://www.mch.dhs.ca.gov/>

For more information on Healthy People 2010 objective 16-9a please visit:

http://www.healthypeople.gov/Document/HTML/Volume2/16MICH.htm#_Toc494699661

and

<http://www.healthypeople.gov/Document/html/tracking/od16.htm#obstetcare>

Figure 16-9a
Primary Cesarean Deliveries
Among Low-Risk Females Giving Birth for the First Time
California, 2000-2003

Healthy People 2010 objective = 15.0

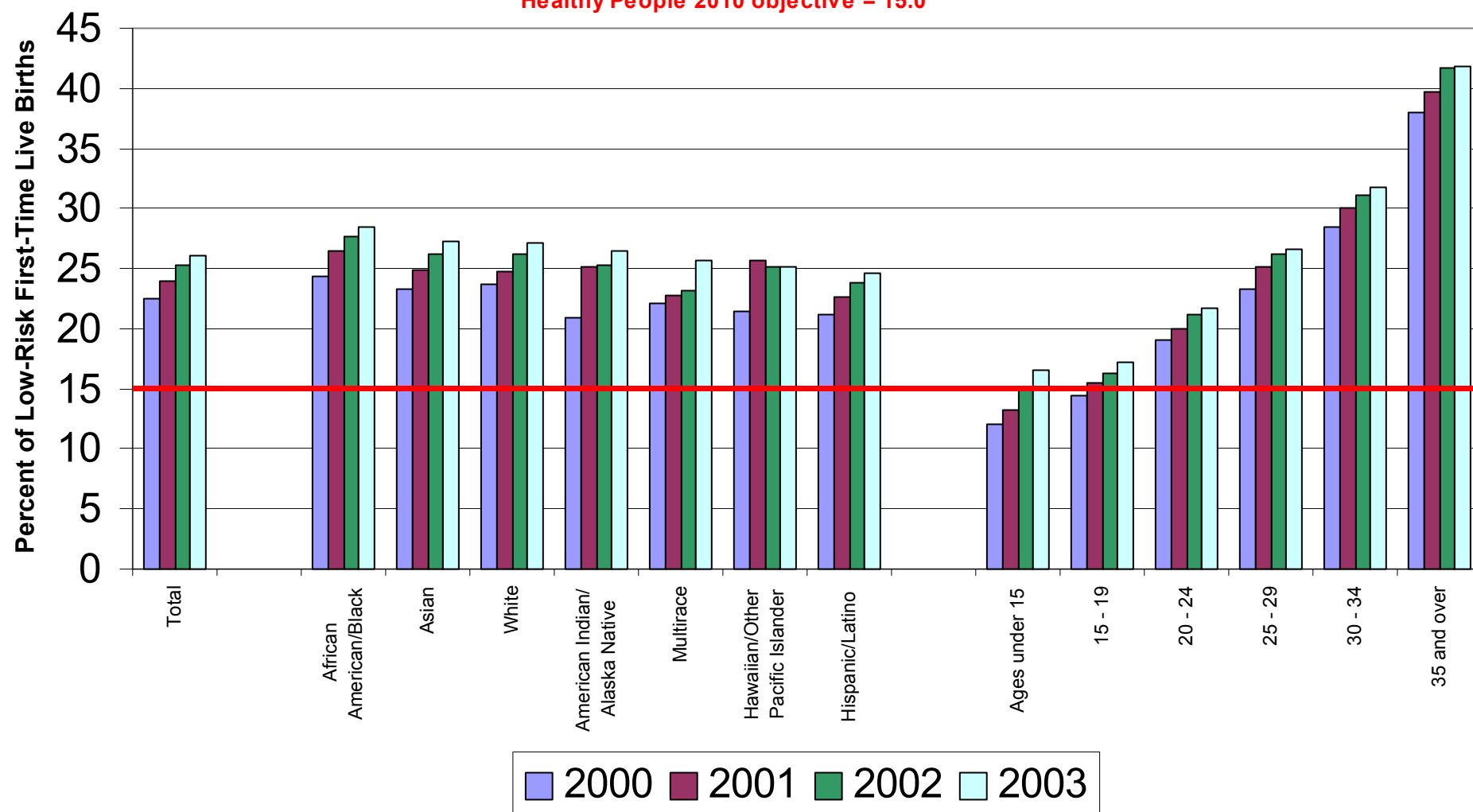


Table 16-9a
Primary Cesarean Deliveries Among Low-Risk Females Giving Birth for the First Time
California, 2000-2003

Primary C-Section Births*	2000					2001				
	Primary C-Sec ¹	Low-Risk Births ²	Rate ³	Lower C.I.	Upper C.I.	Primary C-Sec ¹	Low-Risk Births ²	Rate ³	Lower C.I.	Upper C.I.
Healthy People 2010 Target	15.0					15.0				
CALIFORNIA TOTAL	39,100	173,366	22.6	22.4	22.8	40,970	171,143	23.9	23.7	24.1
Race-Ethnicity of Mother										
African American/Black	2,180	8,962	24.3	23.4	25.2	2,287	8,621	26.5	25.6	27.5
American Indian/Alaska Native	109	520	21.0	17.5	24.5	133	529	25.1	21.4	28.8
Asian	5,561	23,890	23.3	22.7	23.8	5,848	23,541	24.8	24.3	25.4
Hawaiian/Other Pacific Islander	135	629	21.5	18.3	24.7	156	609	25.6	22.1	29.1
Hispanic/Latino	16,012	75,545	21.2	20.9	21.5	17,234	75,932	22.7	22.4	23.0
White	14,301	60,243	23.7	23.4	24.1	14,454	58,268	24.8	24.5	25.2
Multirace	532	2,411	22.1	20.4	23.7	566	2,491	22.7	21.1	24.4
Maternal Age Group										
Under 15	72	598	12.0	9.4	14.6	76	577	13.2	10.4	15.9
15 - 19	5,193	35,926	14.5	14.1	14.8	5,326	34,498	15.4	15.1	15.8
20 - 24	9,236	48,318	19.1	18.8	19.5	9,735	48,591	20.0	19.7	20.4
25 - 29	9,545	40,945	23.3	22.9	23.7	10,049	39,971	25.1	24.7	25.6
30 - 34	8,972	31,581	28.4	27.9	28.9	9,514	31,713	30.0	29.5	30.5
35 and over	6,082	15,998	38.0	37.3	38.8	6,270	15,793	39.7	38.9	40.5

Table 16-9a, continued
Primary Cesarean Deliveries Among Low-Risk Females Giving Birth for the First Time
California, 2000-2003

Primary C-Section Births*	2002					2003				
	Primary C-Sec1	Low-Risk Births2	Rate3	Lower C.I.	Upper C.I.	Primary C-Sec1	Low-Risk Births2	Rate3	Lower C.I.	Upper C.I.
Healthy People 2010 Target			15.0					15.0		
CALIFORNIA TOTAL	43,332	171,682	25.2	25.0	25.4	45,974	176,438	26.1	25.9	26.3
Race-Ethnicity of Mother										
African American/Black	2,320	8,379	27.7	26.7	28.6	2,383	8,373	28.5	27.5	29.4
American Indian/Alaska Native	132	523	25.2	21.5	29.0	146	552	26.4	22.8	30.1
Asian	6,317	24,048	26.3	25.7	26.8	6,806	25,015	27.2	26.7	27.8
Hawaiian/Other Pacific Islander	163	648	25.2	21.8	28.5	156	619	25.2	21.8	28.6
Hispanic/Latino	18,124	75,897	23.9	23.6	24.2	18,963	77,012	24.6	24.3	24.9
White	15,266	58,135	26.3	25.9	26.6	16,265	60,056	27.1	26.7	27.4
Multirace	610	2,629	23.2	21.6	24.8	714	2,776	25.7	24.1	27.3
Maternal Age Group										
Under 15	76	506	15.0	11.9	18.1	82	496	16.5	13.3	19.8
15 - 19	5,337	32,828	16.3	15.9	16.7	5,530	32,249	17.1	16.7	17.6
20 - 24	10,391	49,060	21.2	20.8	21.5	10,755	49,406	21.8	21.4	22.1
25 - 29	10,556	40,233	26.2	25.8	26.7	11,081	41,611	26.6	26.2	27.1
30 - 34	10,165	32,738	31.0	30.5	31.6	11,024	34,760	31.7	31.2	32.2
35 and over	6,807	16,317	41.7	41.0	42.5	7,502	17,916	41.9	41.2	42.6

SOURCE: California Department of Health Services, Center for Health Statistics, Birth Statistical Master Files, 2000-2003.

NOTES: ¹ Primary Cesarean sections among California females giving birth for the first time and having "low-risk" (full-term, singleton, vertex presentation) births.

² Live births among California females giving birth for the first time and having "low-risk" (full term, singleton, vertex presentation) births.

³ Rate per 100 low-risk first-time live births (percent).